

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6626

DISTO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, CW, UR, US

SUBJ: CCD - US-SOVIET CW CONSULTATIONS: SCOPE AND DEFINITION

REF: GENEVA 6567

1. SUMMARY: SECOND AND THIRD SESSIONS DEVOTED TO EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS OF VIEWS REGARDING SCOPE OF AGREEMENT, DEFINITIONS OF AGENTS AND TOXICITY CRITERIA. QUESTIONS BASED ON THESE STATEMENTS ALSO EXCHANGED. END SUMMARY

2. SOVIET AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV OPENED AUGUST 17 MEETING WITH STATEMENT ALONG LINES OF JULY 3 SOVIET NOTE, STRESSING THAT WHILE SOVIETS BELIEVED COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT PROVIDED MOST DESIRABLE APPROACH TO CW PROBLEM, THEIR AUGUST 1974 DRAFT DEALING WITH SUPER-TOXIC AGENTS TOOK INTO ACCOUNT WESTERN RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT COMPREHENSIVE PROHIBITION IN SINGLE STEP. HE PROPOSED THAT DEFINITION OF AGENTS COVERED BE BASED ON GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION SUPPLEMENTED BY TOXICITY STANDARD, LEVEL AND FORM OF WHICH
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HE HOPED COULD BE AGREED DURING CURRENT DISCUSSION. REGARDING

ACTIVITY TO BE PROHIBITED, LIKHATCHEV SAID PROHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING SHOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS WITH DESTRUCTION OF STOCKS AND THAT ALTERNATIVES OUTLINED BY US, INVOLVING RETENTION OF AT LEAST SOME CW STOCKS, WERE UNBALANCED, NOT IN ACCORD WITH 1974 SUMMIT DECISION AND UNFAIR TO STATES LACKING CW STOCKS.

3. AMBASSADOR MARTIN OPENED FOR US WITH STATEMENT EXPRESSING HOPE THAT AGREEMENT POSSIBLE ON NUMBER OF TECHNICAL ISSUES BUT EMPHASIZING THAT TREATY NEGOTIATIONS PREMATURE UNTIL UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES AND ISSUES EXPLORED AND US DELEGATION NOT AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE TEXT. HE ADDED US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES PREREQUISITS TO USEFUL CCD INITIATIVE.

4. US EXPERT (PHELPS) FOLLOWED WITH PRESENTATION ON SCOPE, STRESSING NECESSITY OF BALANCED APPROACH WHICH PRECLUDED POSSIBILITY OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND INCLUDED ADEQUATE VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS, REQUIREMENT THAT ALL LETHAL AND HIGHLY TOXIC AGENTS BE COVERED, INFEASIBILITY OF TOTAL PROHIBITION OF STOCKPILE RETENTION, AND REITERATING FOUR ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES CONTAINED IN AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S APRIL 13 SPEECH. HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET JULY 3 STATEMENT THAT DRAWBACKS TO APPROACH INVOLVING REDUCTION OF STOCKS TO AGREED LEVELS AND RESTRICTION OF PRODUCTION TO REPLACEMENT APPEARED OVERRIDING AND SOUGHT SOVIET VIEWS ON OTHER ALTERNATIVES. STATEMENT STRESSED UNACCEPTABILITY OF AGREEMENT WHICH DID NOT ENCOMPASS FUTURE AS WELL AS EXISTING TYPES OF AGENTS AND WEAPONS.

5. IN STATEMENT ON DEFINITION OF AGENTS TO BE COVERED IN A POSSIBLE CW AGREEMENT, US EXPERT (MIKULAK) REITERATED US VIEW THAT PRINCIPAL CRITERION USED TO DEFINE THE AGENTS SUBJECT TO RESTRICTION SHOULD BE A GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY TOXICITY CRITERIA. HE THEN SUMMARIZED THE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING TOXICITY CRITERIA WHICH HAD BEEN PRESENTED BY THE US AT THE CCD ON APRIL 13. MIKULAK EXPRESSED VIEW THAT AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO DISCUSS ROLE OF TOXICITY CRITERIA AND KEY FACTORS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING TOXICITY THRESHOLD VALUES, RATHER THAN TRYING TO ELABORATE ALL THE DETAILS
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WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY NEED TO BE SPECIFIED.

6. SOVIET EXPERT (SOKOLSKIY) STRESSED SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR COMPREHENSIVE BAN AND PRESENTED LONG STATEMENT EXPLAINING RATIONALE FOR 1972 SOCIALIST DRAFT CONVENTION AND SOVIET DRAFT CONVENTION GIVEN US PRIVATELY IN 1974. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO US SUGGESTION THAT TWO DIFFERENT TOXICITY THRESHOLDS BE USED, HE NOTED THAT LETHAL CW AGENTS CAN BE

SEPARATED INTO TWO GROUPS AND THAT SOVIET SIDE COULD AGREE TO SUCH A SEPARATION. SOKOLSKIY STATED THAT LARGE PRODUCTION OF DUAL-PURPOSE CHEMICALS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RAISED ISSUES NOT INVOLVED IN LIMITATIONS ON SINGLE-PURPOSE AGENTS. NONETHELESS, IT WAS DESIRABLE TO PROHIBIT USE OF DUAL-PURPOSE AGENTS FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES. IN DISCUSSING TOXICITY CRITERIA, HE NOTED THAT US AND SOVIET SUGGESTIONS FOR TOXICITY THRESHOLD FOR SUPERTOXIC AGENTS WERE EQUIVALENT AND THAT SOVIET SIDE WAS PREPARED TO EXTEND COVERAGE OF AGENTS BEYOND LEVEL SPECIFIED IN 1974 DRAFT. (IMPLICATION OF SOKOLSKIY STATEMENTS APPEARS TO BE THAT SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT US POSITION THAT ANY AGREEMENT SHOULD COVER ALL LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC AGENTS). AT END OF STATEMENT SOKOLSKIY OPINED THAT IF COVERAGE OF AGENTS EXPANDED AS US SUGGESTED, SCOPE OF AGENTS COVERED WOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO THAT IN 1972 SOCIALIST DRAFT AND THAT PERHAPS THAT DRAFT SHOULD BE BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS.

7. DISCUSSIONS RESUMED APRIL 18 WITH PRESENTATION BY US EXPERT (MCNAMARA) REGARDING POSSIBLE VALUES FOR TOXICITY CRITERIA. VALUES WERE GIVEN FOR THREE ROUTES BY WHICH CHEMICALS COULD ENTER THE BODY: INHALATION, SKIN ABSORPTION, INJECTION. IT WAS STRESSED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO STANDARDIZE TEST METHODS BY WHICH TOXICITY VALUES FOR INDIVIDUAL CHEMICALS WOULD BE DETERMINED. NUMBER OF AREAS FOR STANDARDIZATION WERE SUGGESTED.

8. DELEGATIONS EXCHANGED QUESTIONS WITH AMB. MARTIN REQUESTING SOVIET COMMENT ON US STATEMENT AT PREVIOUS MEETING REGARDING NECESSITY THAT COVERAGE OF ANY PROHIBITIONS INCLUDE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND US EXPERT POSING SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SOVIET PRESENTATIONS. SOVIETS NOTED THAT FOUR APPROACHES

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SUGGESTED BY US MENTIONED ONLY PRODUCTION AND DESTRUCTION OF EXISTING STOCKS. THEY ASKED IF THIS MEANT US BELIEVED POSSIBLE AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT COVER DEVELOPMENT AND STOCK-PILING. THEY ALSO REQUESTED US VIEWS REGARDING AMOUNT OF TIME WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION.

9. SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUE AT CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATIONS.

10. DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS WITH ENMOD NEGOTIATIONS AND TIME REQUIRED FOR INTERPRETATION OF TECHNICAL STATEMENTS, TALKS ARE PROCEEDING SOMEWHAT MORE SLOWLY THAN ANTICIPATED. CATTO

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